



Street Addresses and Road Names

11



A DDES Customer Information Bulletin



King County Department of Development and Environmental Services
900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest Renton, Washington 98055-1219

<http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/>

Frequently Asked Questions

King County DDES has created customer information bulletins to inform the general public about the effect of codes and regulations on their projects. These bulletins are not intended to be complete statements of all laws and rules and should not be used as substitutes for them. If conflicts and questions arise, current codes and regulations are final authority. Because the codes and regulations may be revised or amended at any time, consult King County staff to be sure you understand all requirements before beginning work. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project meets all requirements of applicable codes and regulations.

The Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) is the agency responsible for assigning road designations (names) and building numbers to the primary entrances of all buildings or other uses for unincorporated King County. DDES also reassigns addresses or street names that are found to be incorrect. Because each city has its own addressing system, the information in this bulletin does not apply to areas within city limits.

Why are addresses so important?

An accurate and easily visible address is a vital element in locating a home or business rapidly in an emergency requiring fire, life, and/or safety services. It also promotes efficient mail and parcel delivery to businesses and residences. During construction, an address that is posted where it can easily be seen speeds up the inspection process and helps emergency personnel locate the building.

When are addresses assigned?

Addresses are assigned as part of the building permit process. Many addresses in formal subdivisions (comprising five or more lots) are assigned before the building permit application, usually just prior to recording of the subdivision. However, addresses for corner lots and lots with large road frontages require a site plan in order to assign the final address. Addresses in short subdivisions and unplatted property are not preassigned.

For single-family residences, addressing technicians review the permit application and site plan, determining the building and access locations. House addresses are generally assigned very early in the building permit process.

For commercial projects (apartments, condominiums, townhouses, shopping centers, strip malls, mobile home parks, etc.) a temporary address is assigned at the time of initial permit application. This is NOT the final address.

Frequently Asked Questions

The addressing technicians will analyze the project and determine the final address or addresses after the plans are considered final.

Note: The Health Department and some utilities estimate addresses before building permit application. These are approximate only and are not official addresses.

How may I get address or street name information?

For address information, call the [address information line at 206-296-6628](tel:206-296-6628) (24-hour voice mail). Even though this line contains a recorded message, the calls are monitored closely and returned in a timely manner. Leave your name, telephone number, and one or more of the following:

- ◆ Tax account or parcel number
- ◆ Address in question
- ◆ Building permit number
- ◆ Legal description

or any other information which will assist in locating the property. An addressing technician will return your call as soon as possible.

What if my address is incorrect?

It is very important to have your address corrected as soon as possible. Incorrect addresses can cause confusion, inconvenience, and life-threatening delays in emergency response time. In some cases, an incorrect address can affect response time for adjacent addresses as well. To get your address corrected or to verify the accuracy of your address, call the [address information line at 206-296-6628](tel:206-296-6628).

Where should address numbers be posted?

Having your address clearly posted and visible from the street will help emergency personnel locate your home quickly if necessary. King County Code 16.08.050 requires the following:

1. Address numbers must be posted in a conspicuous place over or near the principal entrance or entrances. If the entrance(s) cannot be seen easily from the nearest adjoining street, the address numbers must be placed in another conspicuous place on the building or structure so that the address numbers can easily be seen from the nearest adjoining street.
2. If the building or structure cannot be easily seen or is greater than 50 feet from the nearest adjoining street, the address numbers must be placed on a portion of the site that is clearly visible and no more than 20 feet from the street.
3. The address numbers must be legible figures, not less than three inches high for residential uses, and not less than five inches high for commercial uses. Numbers must contrast with the color of the structure upon which they are placed and either be illuminated during periods of darkness, or reflective, so they are easily visible at night.

Frequently Asked Questions

The 1991 edition of the Uniform Fire Code requires that approved address numbers be placed on all new and existing buildings (see Section 10.301a).

Rules to Help You Locate Addresses in Unincorporated King County

- ◆ AVENUES are always “north-south” roads. STREETS are always “east-west” roads.
- ◆ You can also determine whether the road is considered “east-west” or “north-south” from the placement of the directional suffix or prefix.

“**East-west**” roads have a directional **prefix**:

SE Kent-Kangley Road
NE Union Hill Road
SE Klahanie Boulevard
SE 416th Street
NE Woodinville-Duvall Road
SE 208th Place
S 272nd Court

“**North-south**” roads have a directional **suffix**:

Vashon Highway SW
Mountain View Road NE
228th Avenue NE
Snoqualmie-Valley Road NE
108th Court SE
Kelley Road NE
148th Lane SE

- ◆ Address numbers increase in different directions, depending on the area of unincorporated King County in which the building is located.

In the **SOUTH** and **SOUTHEAST** areas of the County, numbers increase going south and east.

In the **SOUTHWEST** area of the County, numbers increase going south and west.

In the **NORTHEAST** area of the County, numbers increase going north and east.

- ◆ **EVEN** numbers are located on the **NORTH** side of east-west roads and on the **EAST** side of north-south roads.
- ◆ **ODD** numbers are located on the **SOUTH** side of east-west roads and on the **WEST** side of north-south roads.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ◆ It is very important to use the complete street name, including the street type (ST, PL, CT, etc.) and the directional suffix or prefix (SE, NE, etc.).

What city and zip code do I use for mailing purposes?

Call the United States Postal Service (see blue information pages of phone book) for postal city and zip code information or access their web site at <http://www.usps.gov>.

Other bulletins and telephone numbers that may be helpful

Bulletin 1	Building and Development Permit Phone Numbers
Bulletin 7	Mobile Home Permits
Bulletin 8	Commercial and Multi-family Building Permits
Bulletin 9	Obtaining a Residential Building Permit
Bulletin 12	The Residential Building Permit Process
Bulletin 17A	Zoning Code: Overview and Summary
Bulletin 25	Short Subdivisions
206-296-6600	DDES Permit Center
206-296-6628	Address Information Line
206-296-6728	FAX



King County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require an accommodation to attend a meeting (two weeks notice) or require this information in Braille, audiocassette, or large print, please call 206-296-6693 or TDD 206-296-7217.